

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 072108

O 161250 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9737

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03133

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM

REF: STATE 44702

L. WE SAW FCO PARLIAMENTARY UNDERSECRETARY ROYLE LATE
MARCH 15 TO MAKE APPROACH REQUESTED REFTEL.
WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST INDICATIONS THAT HMG
INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION AND DELIBERATION ON THIS
MATTER. U. S. NOW HAS EVIDENCE THAT HANOI ENGAGED IN
MASSIVE MOVEMENTS OF MEN AND MATERIAL INTO SOUTH VIETNAM.
SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL RE-
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COGNITION CAN DIRECTLY AFFECT HANOI'S PERFORMANCE UNDER THE AGREEMENT, WE WISHED TO BRING THESE VIOLATIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF OUR NATO PARTNERS. WE HOPED THAT HMG WOULD CONTINUE TO GO SLOW, AND URGE EC PARTNERS IN PARTICULAR TO TAKE SIMILARLY CAUTIOUS APPROACH.

2. ROYLE SAID HE THOUGHT BRITISH VIEW WELL UNDERSTOOD BY U. S. EMBASSY WOULD BE AWARE, HE SAID, OF TALKS WITH SECRETARY ROGERS DURING PARIS CONFERENCE, IN WHICH BRITISH HAD SAID THEY WERE THINKING OF A LOW-LEVEL APPROACH TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON DEVELOPING CONTACTS. SECRETARY HAD INDICATED THIS GAVE U. S. NO PROBLEMS, AND APPROACH WAS MADE. ARRANGEMENTS WERE AGREED THAT FURTHER UK/DRV DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN PEKING AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. BRITISH HAVE TAKEN NO FURTHER ACTION, AND DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. ROYLE SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS THAT HMG WOULD LIKE TO SEE FULFILLED BEFORE MOVING FURTHER, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT YET SAY HOW MANY WOULD BE SEEN AS ABSOLUTE PREREQUISITES. AT MINIMUM, HOWEVER, BRITISH WOULD WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE 60-DAY PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT, TO BE SURE THAT HANOI HAD RETURNED ALL POW'S, AND TO BE SATISFIED THAT HANOI NOT IN MAJOR BREACH OF THE AGREEMENT BEFORE MOVING AHEAD. FCO PLANS TO REVIEW SITUATION IN EARLY APRIL AND MAY THEN BE ABLE TO REFINE THINKING ON TIMING.

4. ROYLE STRESSED THAT HMG DID NOT FEEL ITSELF IN ANY WAY ON CLEFT STICK WITH REGARD TO TIMING. THERE WERE NO GREAT PARLIAMENTARY OR POLITICAL PRESSURES TO MOVE QUICKLY. RECOGNITION UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS WAS

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 161250 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9738

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

PROBABLY INEVITABLE AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD HELP RATHER THAN HURT SOUTH VIETNAM'S POSITION BY UNDERLINING THE EXISTENCE OF TWO VIETNAMS. THE GREAT THING WAS TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT AND TO AVOID MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE QUESTION; IT SHOULD HAPPEN NATURALLY AND WITHOUT FANFARE. WE ASKED IF EC PRESSURES AT MARCH 16 MEETING WERE LIKELY TO MAKE TIMING A POLITICAL ISSUE FOR UK. ROYLE SAID HE THOUGHT HIS UNLIKELY.

5. ROYLE ASKED IF WE COULD GIVE HIM SPECIFICS OF INFILTRATION NOW UNDERWAY WHICH GAVE RISE TO U. S. CONCERN. WE SAID WE DID NOT HAVE GLOBAL FIGURES, NOR COULD WE SPECIFY QUANTITIES OR TYPES OF EQUIPMENT BEING MOVED, BUT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE DETAILS IF THIS USEFUL.

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(FCO CONFIRMS IT IS RECEIVING USUAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS.) ROYLE SAID IT WOULD ALSO BE MOST USEFUL IF TOP LEVEL OF HMG HAD SOME FEEL FOR PROBABLE US ACTIONS IF INFILTRATION CONTINUES AFTER POW'S OUT. HE SAID IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT UK RECEIVE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IF WE ARE GOING TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION: "WE WOULD CERTAINLY WANT AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING".

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE FCO WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD ON RECOGNITION WHEN THEY BELIEVE COAST IS CLEAR. HOWEVER, BOTH THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS AND US ATTITUDES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO ACT AS EFFECTIVE BRAKE AGAINST OVER- HASTY ACTION AS RESULT OF EC PRESSURES. NEVERTHE- LESS WE DETECTED SOME SKEPTICISM REGARDING EXTENT AND SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT INFILTRATION, AND BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO FOLLOW UP PROMPTLY AT POLITICAL LEVEL WITH BRIEF AND MEATY SPECIFICS.

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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